

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated September 3, 2009 and is filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1-33 are pending. By this communication, claim 33 is added. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 33 can be found, for example, at page 12, lines 7-26 of Applicants' disclosure.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Glanzer et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,872). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As provided in a previous response, exemplary embodiments described in Applicants' disclosure are directed to providing and installing device-specific functionalities and information for field devices arranged in a distributed system. Device specific components interact with at least two functional units. The functional units are configured to store device information used to integrate the field devices into the distributed system. The device specific components include means for automatically install device-specific functionality and/or information of the field devices to the functional units for storage.

Applicants' claims and particularly independent claims 1 and 17 broadly encompass the foregoing features.

For example, independent claim 1 recites, among other features, wherein a distributed system has at least one device-specific component that communicates with at least two functional units the at least one device-specific component having means for automatically providing and installing at least one of device-specific

functionalities and information for the field devices that are stored in the functional units.

Based on a careful analysis, *Glanzer* fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned features.

Glanzer discloses a block control system that includes plural field devices that incorporate a physical layer, communication stack, and user layer, with the field devices being connected by a bus. The communications stack is described as facilitating data exchanges and message exchanges. Fig. 3 illustrates various components of a field device that control data exchanges for that device. None of the disclosed components, however, are analogous to or can be reasonably interpreted as Applicants' claimed at least one device-specific component that communicates with at least two functional units the at least one device-specific component having means for automatically providing and installing at least one of device-specific functionalities and information for the field devices that are stored in the functional units.

Particularly, Applicants could find no evidence or disclosure otherwise that establishes a device-specific component linked with functional units, where the device-specific component installing device-specific functionalities for the field devices. At best, *Glanzer* only appears to disclose the transfer of data between field devices and a scheduler over a communication bus.

Applicants add that the Examiner has failed to map each feature of Applicants' claims to the applied reference. Failing to do so does not provide Applicants' with a clear understanding of how the Examiner is interpreting the claims and/or reference,

which subsequently does not give Applicants' a reasonable opportunity to respond to the rejection.

For at least this reason a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 is newly added and depends from claim 1. By virtue of this dependency and because of the additional features recite therein, favorable consideration and allowance of this claim is requested.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-33 are allowable and this application is in condition for allowance. In the event any issues adverse to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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